

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed September 11, 2006, has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. In the present response, claims 4-6 are pending, and claim 4 is amended. Claims 15-26 are added. No new matter has been added by way of the amendment or addition of claims. Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Objections

The Office Action objected to claim 4 for various informalities, including (1) incorporation of a laminar substrate and (2) phrasing informalities with respect to the claim. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the objection to the laminar substrate, and note that formation of the substrate and application of a conductive portion is described at least at page 4, lines 16-17.

Nevertheless, to advance prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 4 herein. The amendment addresses both of the above objections by adopting the rephrasing of the claim suggested by the Examiner. Applicants assert that the amendments to the claim overcome the objections of the Examiner, and in no way narrow the intended scope of the claim. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

In the Office Action, claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gerke et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,973,262). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants assert that Gerke et al. fails to disclose "an insulating substrate from which said insulation displacement contacts and said electrical contacts are formed" as required by claim 4. As discussed in the Office Action, Gerke et al. discloses a substrate 30 with insulation displacements contacts 31 and electrical contacts 34 interconnected by electrical conductors. The electrical contacts 34 are formed from a plug "being mounted centrally on the printed-circuit

board". Gerke et al., col. 5, line 9. Applicants therefore note that Gerke fails to disclose forming both the insulation displacement contacts and the electrical contacts on the substrate.

For at least this reason, Applicants assert that Gerke et al. cannot anticipate independent claim 4. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claim.

New Claims

Claims 15-26 are added in the present response. Applicants note that these newly-added claims are drawn to the same invention as claims 4-6, as defined by the Restriction Requirement mailed June 13, 2006. The newly-added claims incorporate a number of the features discussed above with respect to claim 4. These claims are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as that claim. Applicants respectfully request examination and allowance of these claims as well.

Conclusion

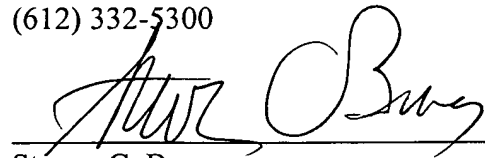
It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. Although certain arguments regarding patentability are set forth herein, there may be other arguments and reasons why the claimed invention is patentably distinct. Applicants reserve the right to raise these arguments in the future. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that the prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

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